

# Dispute Marks Flying Saucers Study

By Jack Anderson

Dr. Edward U. Condon is putting the final touches to a 350,000-word report on flying saucers which already has space scientists in an uproar.

Under Air Force contract, the respected 66-year-old physicist has directed a University of Colorado study of the flying saucer mystery. The Condon report will present a painstaking, case-by-case analysis of flying saucer sightings and will conclude that these offer no "hard evidence" of visitors from outer space.

However, the opposite conclusion has been reached by a senior University of Arizona physicist, Dr. James E. McDonald, who has been conducting his own independent study of unidentified flying objects.

"My position," he said, "is that UFOs are entirely real, with the strong possibility that we are under surveillance by an extraterrestrial intelligence."

He has interviewed dozens of witnesses around the world who have reported seeing flying saucers. The separate descriptions they gave him are remarkably similar, he told this column.

Even before the Condon report is published, space scientists already are taking sides with Dr. Condon or Dr. McDonald in a controversy that is growing increasingly acrid.

## Flying Charges

McDonald got hold of a pre-

liminary memo, for instance, in which Robert J. Low, a former Condon associate, stated that the University of Colorado study would be conducted "almost exclusively by non-believers."

McDonald cited this as evidence that the forthcoming report will be biased. He charged that Condon had formed his conclusions in advance, then had set out to justify them.

Dr. Condon had no comment, but associates suggested that some flying saucer advocates might have a profit motive. Some specialize in writing books about flying saucers, and others would like to get money out of the Government for flying saucer research.

The Condon sympathizers charged that Dr. McDonald had urged a multi-billion-dollar Government spending program to find out whether UFOs are spacecraft from other planets.

They also accused McDonald of using Naval funds, intended for atmospheric research, to investigate flying saucers. Pentagon regulations give the Air Force sole responsibility for UFO investigations. Yet McDonald spent the Navy's money, they charge, to visit Australia and Tasmania, where he interviewed 80 flying saucer witnesses.

Dr. McDonald told this column that his flying saucer research and his expenditures

had been approved by the Navy.

## Pueblo Powwow

At press time, 20 secret meetings had been held at Panmunjom, the Korean truce site, to negotiate the return of the 81 surviving crewmen who were captured last January aboard the U.S. spy ship Pueblo.

For the American negotiators, the talks had been frustrating and fruitless. Maj. Gen. Park Chung Kuk, the sullen North Korean negotiator, invariably would read an insulting statement about the "shameless act of aggression" committed by the United States.

Usually, he wouldn't even respond to the points raised by Maj. Gen. Gilbert Woodward, the chief American negotiator, but would stick grimly to the prepared text. Finally, Park announced at the 19th meeting that he would break off the negotiations unless the American side made a new offer.

The United States came back with a proposal that the crew be turned over to a neutral nation while an international commission, acceptable to both sides, investigated the Pueblo incident. If the commission found that the Pueblo had violated North Korea's territorial waters, the United States offered to apologize.

## Hazardous Duty

Over the years, the confron-

tations at Panmunjom have been so exasperating that the United States changes chief negotiators every six months. The truce agreement calls for military negotiators, and the United States has complied scrupulously. But North Korea has sent in hard-bitten political negotiators in military uniform.

As evidence, General Park, who for years has headed the North Korean delegation, can usually be stumped by raising a technical military question.

The Communists have tried to turn the Panmunjom talks into a propaganda show. At the truce site, the North Koreans painted all their buildings green, then turned loose a flock of pigeons that had been trained to roost on green buildings. Communist guides would point out to visiting groups that "doves of peace" would light only on North Korean structures.

Once, the pigeons were lured (by tasty bird food, it is suspected) to land on South Korea's multi-colored Freedom House. The Communists frantically captured the errant doves and sent them North, presumably for a reeducation course.

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Jack Anderson, substituting for Drew Pearson, will report on when Eugene McCarthy will announce his support for Hubert Humphrey, over Radio WTOP today at 9:40 a.m. and 6:40 p.m.